

Sketch

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Bonsai

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Bonsai

by Rik Myers
English 4

Calloused caretakers
watered you from dented
cans in dimly lit
rooms far removed from prying
eyes and frequented
corridors.

They
bound your branches with
strips of cloth disguised
as dreams, and supported
your supple frame with
heavy wires:
stem and trunk anchored
firmly to pot-bound
roots.

Restraints

imposed on unchecked
growth have, through
time and brute force, twisted
you into
something strange and
beautiful.

Weaker plants

wilt and die, but
songs of love and despair dance
through your sculpted branches, cherished
by mortals and placed on display in
glossy paper galleries and
acetate-sheathed leaves.